

Lieutenant Governor

## State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director

Division of Oil, Gas and Mining

JOHN R. BAZA
Division Director

May 3, 2013

Ivan Weber Weber Sustainability Consulting 953 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue Salt Lake City, Utah 84103

Subject: Email Comments, Kennecott Utah Copper, Bingham Canyon Mine, M/035/0002, Salt Lake County, Utah

Dear Mr. Weber:

Thank you for your electronic mail message dated April 25, 2013, voicing concerns about the Ground Water Discharge Permit Modification – East Waste Rock Extension Project UGW 35100 at the Bingham Canyon mine. The mine is permitted by the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (Division) under the Utah Mined Land Reclamation Act. The permit number is M/035/0002.

The following documents were attached to the e mail:

- KUC GWDischargeUGW350010\_commentsApr26 2013.docs dated April 25, 2013. This is a nine-page document on a wide variety of topics which you authored.
- ActualizingSustainableMining.pdf which consists of 30 pages which you had authored and titled "Actualizing Sustainable Mining: 'Whole Mine, Whole Community, Whole Planet' Through 'Industrial Ecology' and Community-Based Strategies." This document also covers a variety of topics relating to sustainable mining and is widely published on the Internet.
- Rocky\_Mtn\_Great Basin\_pcc.pdf dated 2003. The lead author is Fred Wagner of Utah State University, but there are several other authors.
- UTAH2005.pdf which consists of 45 slides from a Power Point presentation on May 13, 1999, from the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, regarding long term economic and demographic projections.

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These documents have been added to the Division's file for the Bingham Canyon mine, and they are available through the Division's web site at <a href="http://linux1.ogm.utah.gov/WebStuff/wwwroot/minerals/mineralsfilesbypermit.php?M0350002">http://linux1.ogm.utah.gov/WebStuff/wwwroot/minerals/mineralsfilesbypermit.php?M0350002</a>.

Kennecott Utah Copper has a contract with the Board of Oil, Gas and Mining for reclamation of the Bingham Canyon mine (M/035/0002). Environmental issues and reclamation associated with the Utah Mined Land Reclamation Act are found in the Notice of Intention to Commence Large Mining Operations, also known as the NOI. The most recent version of the NOI was originally approved in 2003 but has been amended since then. I invite you to research this document to see details of the commitments that have been made. All of the Kennecott files are available through the Division's web site.

The Division has also received a notice of a feasibility study for the east waste rock extension. In summary this project would enhance reclamation of the Keystone dumps with a regraded average toe to crest slope of 2.5H to 1V. The lower slope angles would be expected to allow higher vegetation cover and greater biodiversity. If Kennecott decides to go forward with the project, the Division anticipates reclamation will be enhanced and that impacts to both the surface and groundwater quality will also be lessened by implementing the newest and best available technology for the collection system.

Please don't hesitate to contact the Division if you have further questions or concerns. The lead inspector for this mine is Leslie Heppler whose phone number is 801-538-5257. I can be reached at 801-538-5261.

Sincerely,

Paul B. Baker

Minerals Program Manager

PBB: lah: eb

Cc: Dan Hall, Water Quality (<u>DHall@utah.gov</u>); Kelly Payne, Kennecott (<u>paynek@kennecott.com</u>) P:\GROUPS\MINERALS\WP\M035-SaltLake\M0350002-BinghamPit\final\LTR-5420-04302013.doc